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COMIREX-M-43

COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

NRO review completed

COMIREX-M-43
11 July 1968

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COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

Minutes of Meeting Held in Auditorium

1000-1300, Thursday, 11 July 1968

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PRESIDING

Chairman

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. L. A. Moyer, Jr., State

Col. R. W. Kane, AFNIN

[REDACTED] DIA

NSA

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Col. C. C. Clayton, OACSI

CIA

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Capt. S. E. Sloan, ONI

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

[REDACTED]

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Special Briefing

New Dry Film Processing Concept

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1. [redacted] advised COMIREX that his office has been interested in developing a film processing capability which would satisfy the following criteria:

- a. That the complete processing system be transportable in a C-130 aircraft.
- b. That on-the-shelf materials be used to the maximum extent possible, particularly for original negative and dupe stock material.
- c. That the number of personnel involved be limited to four.
- d. Any fresh water required should not exceed that which can be carried in or with the processing system.
- e. Power requirements not to exceed 10KW. Processor should be completely self-powered, not having to rely on external power source.
- f. Complete system should require absolute minimum maintenance with highest reliability of operation.
- g. That processing should be independent of ambient temperature and time.
- h. That original negative be ultimately archival.

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i. That system be capable of handling thin-based materials, including 3400, 3401 and 3404 negative materials without detectable degradation below that provided by laboratory processing at a high quality fixed installation and using a capacity of up to 6000 feet of original film per day and three duplicate positive.

j. That the processor be capable of handling film widths from 70mm to 9.5 inches.

k. That expendable supplies shall be carried for at least 14 days of operation with the capability of being resupplied in 14 day increments. Storage life of the expendables under provisioned storage conditions shall be at least six months.

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2. [redacted] advised also that it is the opinion of his office that Eastman Kodak has met the specifications with a proposal for what is being called a "Spin System." Eastman has developed what is being labeled as Desimat Tape, which when brought in contact with a wet film surface for about 15 seconds, will provide a completely dry film similar to that provided by conventional drying techniques. The development of Desimat Tape by Eastman Kodak is responsible for the success of the process now used in conjunction with Bimat film materials.

3. Briefly, the film is removed from the aircraft after a mission, taken into the processing shelter where it is introduced into one of the processors and conventional Bimat processing is employed. After the original negative has been delaminated from the Bimat film, it is brought into contact with the Desimat Tape, and within two hours, a completely dry original negative is available for printing or dupe positive processing. In the opinion of OSA tests have proved conclusively that the original negative processed using Bimat film as the processing agent yields an original negative at least as good

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in quality as that produced by conventional processing. The use of the Desimat Tape is a unique process and is not being duplicated by any other manufacturer at this time. To the best of [redacted] knowledge it is the only available rapid near dry processing system available today. The only work required to produce a useable system for the field is the manufacturing of the actual processing hardware. Eastman is so convinced that this system will prove invaluable to the consumer that they have funded the manufacturer of the prototype hardware themselves, and it is anticipated that the first half of the unit will be available in late August and the second half in late September. The system met all of the specifications outlined by OSA and appears to have considerable promise for future field use, particularly that of a tactical nature where rapid high quality original negative and positive materials are needed at the reconnaissance aircraft recovery site providing the P.I. with his film in a fraction of the time available using any other system or processing facility.

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4. [redacted] concluded with the comment that OSA has requested initial funding from NRO for this processing system. It has not yet received NRO assessment of the proposal.

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5. Further discussion tended to indicate that whereas the work sparked by OSA seems promising it is not unique and that the EK process would need to be compared to work accomplished by [redacted] and ITEK. [redacted] observed that NRO has given considerable attention to the dry processing problem and noted that some of the problems have been turned over to [redacted] for further action. The Chairman thanked [redacted] for the briefing and requested that EXRAND develop answers to some of the questions raised by [redacted] as well as a comprehensive briefing on other work being done in this field.

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Section I (Approval of Minutes, Briefings, and Reports on Operations)

Approval of Minutes

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1. COMIREX-M-41 was approved with a new substitute paragraph for paragraph 3 on page 22* and amendment of the last sentence of paragraph 4 on the same page to read as follows:

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[redacted] felt that the intelligence community has expressed itself as precisely as possible on this point and that the NRO should now proceed with the development of a response to the DCI on the level of effort required to satisfy the CCRP."

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* / Distributed on 12 July 1968, [redacted]

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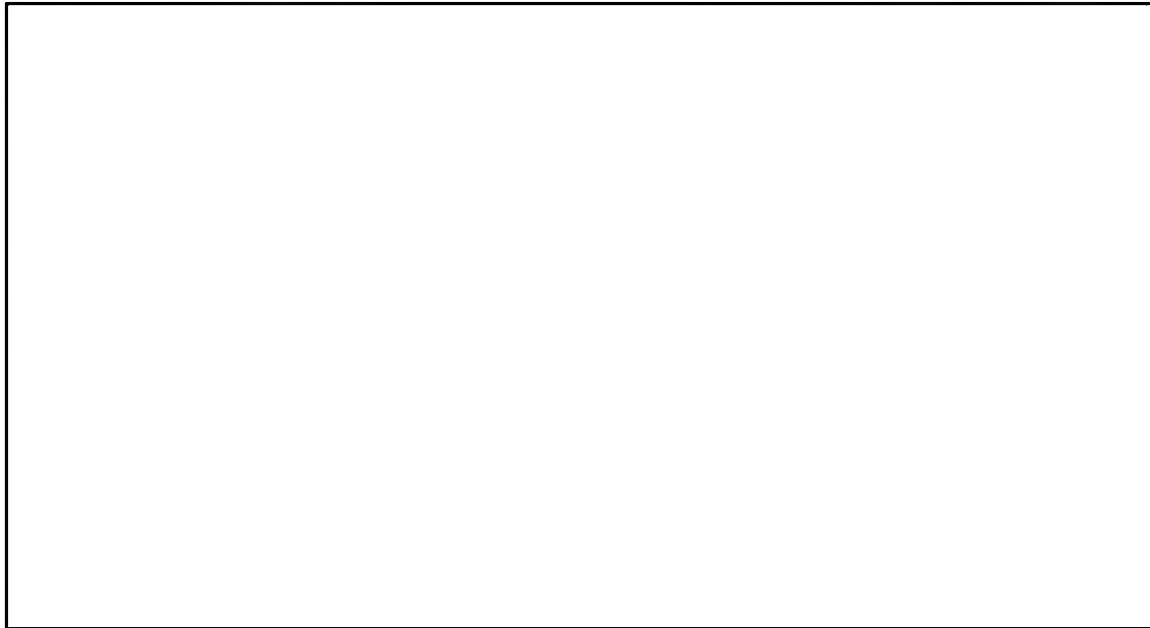
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[Redacted]

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CORONA

1047 - Launched 20 June, 2145Z

First bucket recovered - 29 June 1968, 0034Z
Second bucket recovered - 5 July 1968, 2322Z

Film processing/distribution:

Arrival 2nd bucket at Eastman Kodak - 6 July 1968,
1545Z

Estimated arrival 2nd bucket Priority 1 in D. C. area -
11 July 1968, 0100Z

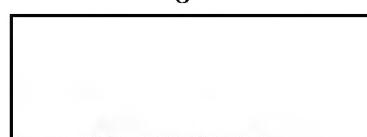
Estimated arrival 2nd bucket Priority 2 in D. C. area -
12 July 1968, 0100Z

1104 - Scheduled 7 August 1968

Estimated recovery 1st bucket (8 days) - 16 August, 0030Z
Estimated recovery 2nd bucket (7 days) - 23 August, 0030Z

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Film processing/distribution:

Estimated arrival 1st bucket at Eastman Kodak -
16 August, 1800Z
Estimated arrival 1st bucket Priority 1 in D.C.
area - 19 August, 1600Z
Estimated arrival 1st bucket Priority 2 in D.C.
area - 20 August, 1600Z
Estimated arrival 2nd bucket at Eastman Kodak -
23 August, 1800Z
Estimated arrival 2nd bucket Priority 1 in D.C.
area - 26 August, 1600Z
Estimated arrival 2nd bucket Priority 2 in D.C.
area - 27 August, 1600Z

Projected stereo coverage:

1st bucket - Land area - 2.95 million sq. n.m.
Targets - Approximately 2,400

2nd bucket - Land area - 2.95 million sq. n.m.
Targets - Approximately 2,400

1048 - Scheduled 18 September 1968

Estimated recovery 1st bucket (8 days) - 27 September, 0030Z
Estimated recovery 2nd bucket (8 days) - 5 October, 0030Z

Film processing/distribution:

Estimated arrival 1st bucket at Eastman Kodak -
27 September, 1800Z
Estimated arrival 1st bucket Priority 1 in D.C.
area - 30 September, 1600Z
Estimated arrival 1st bucket Priority 2 in D.C. area -
1 October, 1600Z
Estimated arrival 2nd bucket at Eastman Kodak -
5 October, 1800Z

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Estimated arrival 2nd bucket Priority 1 in D.C.
area - 8 October, 1600Z
Estimated arrival 2nd bucket Priority 2 in D.C.
area - 9 October, 1600Z

Projected stereo coverage:

1st bucket - Land area - 4.15 million sq. n.m.
Targets - Approximately 3,000

2nd bucket - Land area - 4.15 million sq. n.m.
Targets - Approximately 3,000

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Report on Aircraft Activities--Far East

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4.

[redacted] confirmed continued standdown of IDEALIST/TACKLE and FOOD FAIR flights over China. [redacted] advised one GIANT SCALE mission flown between 4 and 11 July to be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Area/Targets</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
4 July	GS035	Hon Gay Port Fac/Cat Bi Afld/ Gia Lam Afld/Phuc Yen Afld/ Yen Bai Afld/Dien Bien Phu Afld/ Lau Chau Complex/Kep Afld	Fair

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5. [redacted] reported the following BUMPY ACTION activities in the 4-11 July reporting period:

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission No.</u>	<u>Areas/Targets</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
4 July	Q225	Rte 15 from 2046N10505E to 1918N10534E/Coastal Hwy Rte 1A, DMZ	Did not return
	Q712	Nam Dinh - Thanh Hoa RR, Nam Dinh TPP, Ninh Binh RR Bridge, Thanh Hoa Trans-Shipment Point	Successful, MARS
5 July	Q812	Rte 1A Ninh Binh - Hanoi, Bac Giang Complex Kep Afld and RR Yd	Did not return
	Q716	DMZ; Hwy 101 from 17N10656E to 1719N10638E, Hwy 101 from 1719N10638E to 1738N10622E	In water, recovered
7 July	Q809	Bac Mai Afld/Gia Lam Afld/RR Seg 3A/Co Trai RR Bridge, Nam Dinh Transshipment Pt, TPP and RR Yd	In water; film status unknown
	Q702	Vinh to Thanh Hoa RR	Successful, MARS
8 July	Q226	Hon NE Isle/Beach Ship 1920N10548E to 1934N10549E/ Seg Hwy 1A/Vinh Afld/Seg Hwy 101	Successful, MARS
11 July	Q226	Same as above	Successful, MARS
		Recovered - 5 Lost - 2 Undetermined - 1	

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6. [redacted] reported action against two priority South China/North Vietnam targets as follows:

a. Coverage of Lines of Communications (LOC) pertinent to the introduction of Chinese forces into North Vietnam (see COMOR-D-25/207, 4 March 1966). The number of LOC priority targets in South China and North Vietnam remains at 142. For the period 4 July-10 July 1968, surveillance coverage was reported on 10 priority targets in North Vietnam. The specific targets are underlined in Tab A.

b. Coverage of North Vietnam to detect the possible introduction or deployment of new weapons systems (see COMIREX-D-25.3/2, 20 November 1967). The area coverage reported obtained between 4 July-10 July 1968 consisted of four GIANT SCALE and five BUMPY ACTION missions. The coverage is shown on the grid map at Tab B. No SSM activity was observed.

Report on Aircraft Activities--Cuba

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7. [redacted] reported one GLASS LAMP flight in the 4-11 July period and supplied the following recapitulation:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission No.</u>	<u>Results</u>
5 July	G031	Net coverage 32% Cumulative coverage 80.6%

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission No.</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
12 June	G027	41.0%	41.0%
21 June	G028	38.3%	65.0%
26 June	G029	"H" Camera Mission	
2 July	G030	10.2%	68.3%
5 July	G031	32.0%	80.6%

The current reporting period extends from 10 June 1968 through 4 August 1968.

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8. [redacted] reported that for the 56-day period beginning 16 May 1968, six GLASS LAMP missions were flown over Cuba and provided 90% coverage of the area. During this period 139 of the 149 targets in Cuba were covered completely on cloud-free photography, not including the most recent mission.

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Mission Highlights



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1. [REDACTED] provided COMIREX with some highlights in recent missions as follows:



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b. Mission 1047 showed two new airfields, constructed since June 1967, close to the Sino-Soviet border. Kardsuat has a runway 10,400 feet in length, the Omirluk runway is 8,685 feet. No aircraft were observed at either airfield.

c. Semipalatinsk. FIDDLER aircraft were identified by Mission 1047 at Semipalatinsk. This is the first identification of FIDDLERS at this airfield and seven were seen.



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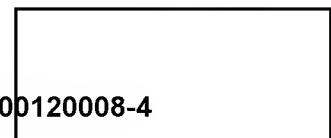


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Section IV (Action Items)

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[Redacted]

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Adaptation of 1104 to Short-Arc Technique for Positioning Accuracy

[Redacted]

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2. A thorough discussion of various ways and means of launching and operating 1104 to assist in the improvement of positioning accuracy through application of the short-arc techniques were concluded with a request from the Chairman that NRO supply NPIC with specific information on the slit widths which would be needed. [Redacted] requested that NRO do this within a time frame which would then permit NPIC to advise what degradation to interpretability and loss of resolution would result from the recommended slit widths. Based on this information the Chairman would consult other members as necessary and would provide NRO with a decision, by noon on 12 July, as to whether to fly the short-arc mission.

[Redacted]

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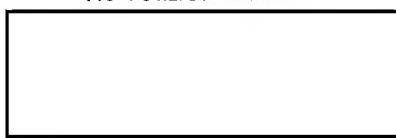
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3. The discussion did show that in the present time frame favorable consideration of launching and operating 1104 for the short-arc experiment was militated against by a priority requirement for KH-4B quality photography of North Korea and the need to obtain as much coverage as possible of Soviet strategic weapons systems, both offensive and defensive. Despite the realization that 400 SIOP targets are estimated to be more than 750 feet away from the locations presently plotted, and the SAR could improve this accuracy to better than 500 feet, the improvement of these targeting accuracies appeared to be of a lesser priority than the development of hard intelligence in the current situation. The Chairman noted also [redacted] observation that SAC really wants 450-foot accuracy and needs this by mid-1969.

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[redacted] speculated that while 1104 would be the last chance this year, it would appear that the mapping and charting community might be able to plan a better mission next year. Various new aids to positioning accuracy have been discussed and might be of real benefit in approaching the SAC requirement.

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Requirement for Coverage of Santiago, Cuba, with the "H" Camera [redacted]

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4. [redacted] advised that the ICRS has reaffirmed the requirement of coverage of the Santiago Camp Bunker [redacted] in Cuba [redacted]. A specific camera system is not specified such as the "H" Camera System. A cut-off date after which required solar conditions will no longer exist for 1968, is being determined by the requesting agency and will be provided the operator for mission planning purposes.

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Section V (Status of Recent COMIREX Papers)

FY 1969 Requirements for Third-Phase Basic Reporting (COMIREX-D-
31. 4/18, 19, and 20)

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1. The Chairman, EXSUBCOM, noting that the majority of the basic reporting requirements have now been assigned, requested the support of COMIREX principals in having their organizations develop estimated reporting schedules in response to the requirements. COMIREX agreed readily to [redacted] further suggestion that the organizations develop their estimated reporting schedules in quarterly increments rather than for the entire year. COMIREX approved the assignment of the requirements tabled for consideration.

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Overhead Imagery Reconnaissance of North Vietnam During a Truce
(COMIREX-D-25. 3/4)

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2. The Chairman commented briefly on the revisions made to the previous report and requested COMIREX comments on the new version. The Department of State member feared that the seventh paragraph might be a detriment to the objective analysis of the problem as presented in the first six paragraphs. Mr. Moyer felt that the first six paragraphs were responsive to Admiral Taylor's request while the seventh became enmeshed with an evaluation of reconnaissance in a truce period and made recommendations, which have not been requested. The CIA member agreed that the tone of paragraph seven could be changed and revised into an objective summary of the preceding comments.

[redacted] invited both the Department of State and CIA members to submit proposed changes to him.

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3. The Chairman was disinclined to disregard pertinent aspects of future operations, such as the pressing need for reconnaissance below the cloud cover. Evasion of this issue could result in a deceptive report. In response to a specific request from the DIA member, [redacted] postponed further discussion of this paper until 18 July.

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Planning Use of USA Standard Code for Information Interchange
(ASCII) (COMIREX-D-32.2/3)

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4. In reply to the doubts of [REDACTED] on security problems which might be associated with standardization of the ASCII for communications, [REDACTED] pointed out that he did not see the connection between the coding of computer language and security. However, the data base security advisor was looking into the problem of security and administration as it relates to interagency exchange of magnetic tapes containing imagery information.

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5. [REDACTED] observed that actions precipitated by the approval of ASCII had resulted in a need for a thorough community exploration of the present use of computer code language in the imagery information environment for a policy statement as to how to conform to the new ASCII standard. COMIREX agreed that the community must prepare eventually to bring data handling and exchange in line with ASCII. In the meantime, however, members regarded the approach outlined in the memorandum under consideration as being logical in terms of avoiding disruption of present systems and from an economic standpoint. The Chairman, DBWG was authorized to continue in accordance with his proposal, including maintaining an exchange of information and ideas on the subject with the Chairman, IHC.

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